GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3851
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2002
BAN ON SALE OF MILITARY UNIFORMS
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in most of the terrorist attacks, the terrorist came in military uniform;

(b) if so, whether the Government would consider regulating supply of military uniform or banning open sale of military cloth and use of military uniforms; and

(c) if not, the other steps, the Government contemplate to ensure that military uniforms are not made available to militant outfits?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) There have been a number of instances in Jammu and Kashmir wherein terrorists dressed in Army/Police uniforms have carried out acts of violence, generally with the intention of maligning/defaming the Security Forces, and, in some cases, to gain unhindered entry into camps/installations.

(b) & (c): Initially, in 1989, a proposal of banning Olive Green Cloth in the Civil Sector was initiated by the Ministry of Home Affairs and was also examined by the Ministry of Textiles and referred to the Ministry of Law & Justice.The proposal was not accepted as it was not legally tenable. In August, 1994, Ministry of Defence brought to the notice of Ministry of Home Affairs that a number of civilians, civil security organisations etc. have been using service pattern uniforms, uniforms articles and vehicles, which are painted similar to defence duty vehicle and also that ex-servicemen employed by various security agencies/private enterprises/shops have been using olive green uniforms, which was a matter of serious concern. The Ministry of Home Affairs issued instructions to all States/Union Territory Administrations on 24.10.1994 and again on 18.1.1999 to take appropriate measures and issue directions for immediate stoppage of open sale, stiching and use of Service uniforms and Uniforms articles by unauthorized persons, use of service type painted vehicles by civilians.